



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Institute of Standards and Technology**  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

**JUL 22 2019**

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Your letter dated June 17, 2019, points to an important issue that concerns government at all levels as well as the private sector. The need to improve practices for securing sensitive data that is shared over the Internet is one of many challenges that our country faces as we manage our information resources.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) shares your concern, and we appreciate the confidence that the Congress has demonstrated in this agency. That support has enabled us to produce numerous guidance documents that are helping organizations and individuals to better manage their cybersecurity risks, which strengthens our economy and security.

NIST agrees that producing easy-to-understand guidance for sharing sensitive information over the Internet in a secure manner will be an essential element in addressing this issue. We are researching current technologies, standards, guidelines, best practices and potential future technologies in order to create the guidance to address this issue.

The NIST Information Technology Laboratory (ITL) will lead this effort and we appreciate your continued support and confidence in our abilities to address issues facing the nation.

Thank you for raising this concern and for your suggestion. Please contact me at [Jim.Schufreider@nist.gov](mailto:Jim.Schufreider@nist.gov) in the NIST Congressional and Legislative Affairs Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James Schufreider  
Director, Congressional and Legislative Affairs Office  
National Institute of Standards and Technology